

SERMON NOTES ♦ DECEMBER 6, 2009
Preparing for God

SERMON TEXT

Luke 3:1-6 (NRSV)

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

NOTES

Leadership of First Presbyterian Church

SESSION

Clay Brown, Moderator

Fred A. Coates • Tyler Domske • CP Chappell, Clerk

Class of 2009

Christine B. Aheam
Karen O. Brawley
F. Michael Campbell, MD
Philip L. Heilman
Weldon M. Hitchcock
Thermond E. Thompson
J. Scott Vaughn

Class of 2010

David W. Brooks, II
Donald L. Fair
Donald F. Howie
Joyce S. Johnson
Thomas R. Kirkland, Jr.
W. Smith Kirk
Mark E. McNeely

Class of 2011

Mark E. Auten
Allen M. Brawley
W. Brent Curtis
Mary H. Fortanbary
Karen A. Shore
Paul S. Trimble
Harry Weyer

DIACONATE

Kathleen H. Irwin, Moderator

Class of 2009

Dale W. Brawley
John G. Donelson
Judy L. Cole
Eric H. Estes
C. Marshall Horsman, Jr.
Kathleen H. Irwin
Julie R. Morrow

Class of 2010

Kathy B. Ballard
Laura E. Bates
Lynn T. Brooks
Rebecca B. Deal
Janice S. Puer
J. Patrick Stutts
Eric R. Puer

Class of 2011

Bryan G. Cole
James N. Davidson
Thomas B. McMillan
Beth B. Sink
Mary Beth Stutts
Gene E. Vaughan
Lucinda Weyer

PASTORS

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The Rev. Tyler J. Domske, Associate Pastor for Youth
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PROGRAM AND SUPPORT STAFF

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Nancy Kortright, Director of Preschool
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LuAnne Sledge, Treasurer
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Nellie Goodman, Secretary
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Billy Black, Sexton

Jerilyn Fair, Hostess

Christy Floyd, Organist
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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Loving God, Loving People, and Making Disciples

December 6, 2009 ♦ 11:00 A.M. ♦ Second Sunday of Advent

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME

Clay Brown

Please complete the Friendship Pad and pass it down your pew for all to sign.

An asterisk (*) marks when those who are able will please stand.

Please turn off your cell phones or place them on "vibrate."

INVOCATION

PRELUDE: *The Prayer*

Sager/Foster

Harrison Deaton, violin

CALL TO WORSHIP

***HYMN 153:** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

HYFRYDOL

ADVENT WREATH: Peace

The Mark McNeely Family

ANTHEM: *Mary Had A Baby*

Spiritual

Logos Choir

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Tyler Domske

CALL TO CONFESSIO

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSIO

Almighty God, you who called forth light, forgive our preference for darkness! You who sent John to be a voice crying in the wilderness, forgive our unwillingness to say anything at all! Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us...

SILENT CONFESSIO

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***RESPONSE 179:** *Joy to the World* (v. 3)

ANTIOCH

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

***HYMN 180:** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ST. LOUIS
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Malachi 3:1-4 Pew Bible, p. 842
Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!
ANTHEM: *Go Tell It On The Mountain* American Folk
Middle School Handbells
NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Luke 3:1-6 Sermon Notes
Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!
SERMON: *Preparing for God* Clay Brown

RESPOND TO GOD

PRAYER OF RESPONSE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** From Romans 8

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose. We are sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: *Hodie Christus Natus Est* Bedford
(Today Christ is Born)

Hodie Christus natus est! Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo! Hodie Christus natus est! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! The angels sang to the shepherds three, as they knelt on bended knee, "Christ is born this holy mom! Hurry to Bethlehem and see!" The shepherds left the hillside bare, traveled over the meadows fair, till in awe the child they saw, lying the manger there. Hodie Christus... May we like those three shepherds poor, come, the Christ Child to adore; May we here, every year, worship within the church's door. Then may we, with joyful call, carry the news outside this hall; Thus we'll share, everywhere, God's great gift to one and all. Hodie Christus...

***RESPONSE 188:** Refrain of *Angels We Have Heard on High* GLORIA
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GO IN GOD'S NAME

***HYMN 189:** *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* (vv. 1-3) REGENT SQUARE
***OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE AND INVITATION**
***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**
***RESPONSE 189:** *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* (v. 4) REGENT SQUARE
***POSTLUDE:** Allegro Vivace Fugue Buxtehude

If you are our guest today, welcome! We're so glad you're here. For more information on FPC, please indicate your interest on the Friendship Pad and/or take home a "Welcome Home" folder from the Parlor. **You can become a FPC member TODAY** by your profession of faith, transfer of membership, or reaffirmation of faith. Please speak with the pastor in the chancel area following the service.

Large print bulletins are available from the ushers. **Assisted listening devices** are available from the sound console at the back of the sanctuary.

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given in glory to God and in honor of all veterans and their families by the Frank Rader family.

Recent Prayer Requests: Holly Brumley; Eddie and Lecie Miller; Paul Trimble; Lynn Brooks; Jim Streetman's father; Aldo Martinez; Billie and Ray Brawley; Helen Templetton; Lottie Massey; Dick Fortanbary; Pam Winters' sister, Reaves Geist; Suzy Brawley; Mary Voils Aven; EO2SW Laban Thompson; Scott Knutsen; 1st Lt. Ben Peacock, USAF; Maj. Scott Goodrich; T. Sgt. Timothy Goodrich; all those who have recently lost loved ones; those who are looking for jobs.

Church Night Supper and Concert: You are invited to a fellowship supper **tonight** at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner will consist of baked ziti, garlic bread, tossed salad and a Christmas surprise dessert. The cost is \$4 for adults and \$2 for children. Following the supper, there will be a sing-a-long concert, "Sing We Now of Christmas," with a Reader's Theatertelling the stories of some of our most beloved Christmas Carols. Be sure to join us for this festive evening.

Pledge Cards and Time and Talent Forms: If you haven't yet turned in your 2010 Pledge Card or your 2010 Time and Talent Form, you're encouraged to do as soon as you are able. We are behind the typical number of responses turned in by this time. Your stewardship of time, talent, and treasure is very important to your spiritual growth and our service for Christ as a congregation. Groups use the information from Pledge Cards and Time and Talent forms to plan 2010's ministry. You may find cards and forms in the pews, in the Parlor, and in other locations. You may turn in the cards and forms in the offering plate or in the church office. Thank you for your support and generosity!

Operation Christmas Child: Please contact Ellen Auten if you are interested in volunteering at the Operation Christmas Child Processing Center in Charlotte this Wednesday, December 9. Volunteers will be helping to prepare shoe boxes for shipment overseas. The group plans to leave at 2:00 p.m., work at the center from 3:00-6:00 p.m., and return by 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Pageant Practice: All children in grades 1-6 are encouraged to participate in the annual Christmas pageant, scheduled to be presented on Sunday, December 20, at 10:00 a.m. Pageant practice will be held during the church school hour this morning and next Sunday, December 13. The four year olds and kindergarten class will also participate in the pageant, and will practice on Sunday, December 13, during church school. Please contact Ellen Auten for more information.

Cherub Choir: All preschool and kindergarten age children are encouraged to participate in the Cherub Choir at the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Practices will be held during church school at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays, December 6 and 13, in Room 210. An additional practice will be held immediately following the Christmas pageant in the fellowship hall on Sunday, December 20.

Calendar for December 6 - 13, 2009

Sunday: **2nd Sunday of Advent**
9:00 a.m.-- Early Worship
10:00 a.m. - Church School
11:00 a.m. - Worship with Logos & MSM
No PYF
5:00 p.m. - Worship & Music Committee
5:00 p.m. - CE Committee in Room 300
6:00 p.m. Church Night supper
7:00 p.m. - *Sing We Now of Christmas* Concert

Monday: 2:00 p.m. - Circle 1 in the parlor
6:15 p.m. - Circle 3 at the home of Kim Streb
6:15 p.m. - Exaltation Ringers
7:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts

Tuesday: 10:00 a.m. - Circle 4 at the home of Margaret Sanders
12:00 p.m. - Circle 5 at the home of Ellen Auten
2:00 p.m. - Circle 6 in the parlor
6:00 p.m. - Circle 2 in the parlor
7:00 p.m. - Executive Committee in room 300

Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner
2:00 p.m. - Volunteer at Operation Christmas Child
6:15 p.m. - SupperClub at Pueblo Grande
7:30 p.m. - Chancel Choir

Thursday: 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study at the Rogers' home
6:00 p.m. - Fun & Fellowship at Golden Corral

Friday: 6:00 p.m. - Walk Thru Bethlehem
6:00 p.m. - Exaltation Ringers downtown Mooresville

Saturday: 2:00 p.m. - Walk Thru Bethlehem

Sunday 12/13: **3rd Sunday of Advent**
8:00 a.m. - Presbyterian Men's Breakfast
9:00 a.m.-- Early Worship with Cantata
10:00 a.m. - Church School
10:00 a.m. - Pageant practice
11:00 a.m. - Worship with Cantata
4:30 p.m. Alpha PYF
5:00 p.m. - Omega PYF
5:00 p.m. - Diaconate
7:00 p.m. - Session

From the Budget and Finance Committee:

January -October 2009

YTD Budget = \$641,934

YTD Deficit = \$43,864

